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APPLICATION NO. 43	FILING DATE 02/96	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.
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MM71/0610
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EXAMINER

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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DATE MAILED: 06/10/99

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks

Office Action Summary

Application No.

08/691,434

Applicant(s)

Yamazaki et al.

Examiner

M. Wilczewski

Group Art Unit

2822



☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on Mar 11, 1999

☐ This action is **FINAL**.

☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11; 453 O.G. 213.

A shortened statutory period for response to this action is set to expire three month(s), or thirty days, whichever is longer, from the mailing date of this communication. Failure to respond within the period for response will cause the application to become abandoned. (35 U.S.C. § 133). Extensions of time may be obtained under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a).

Disposition of Claims

☒ Claim(s) 8, 11-13, and 15-91 is/are pending in the application.

Of the above, claim(s) 8, 11-13, 15, 21-23, 26-55, and 62-73 is/are withdrawn from consideration.

☒ Claim(s) 16, 18, 19, 24, 25, 56-61, and 74-77 is/are allowed.

☒ Claim(s) 17, 20, and 78-91 is/are rejected.

☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

☐ Claims _____ are subject to restriction or election requirement.

Application Papers

☐ See the attached Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948.

☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are objected to by the Examiner.

☐ The proposed drawing correction, filed on _____ is ☐ approved ☐ disapproved.

☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

☒ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d).

☒ All ☐ Some* ☐ None of the CERTIFIED copies of the priority documents have been
☐ received.

☒ received in Application No. (Series Code/Serial Number) 08/160,909.

☐ received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

*Certified copies not received: _____

☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e).

Attachment(s)

☒ Notice of References Cited, PTO-892

☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s), PTO-1449, Paper No(s). 29,30,32

☐ Interview Summary, PTO-413

☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948

☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application, PTO-152

--- SEE OFFICE ACTION ON THE FOLLOWING PAGES ---

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DETAILED ACTION

Continued Prosecution Application

The request filed on March 11, 1999, for a Continued Prosecution Application (CPA) under 37 CFR 1.53(d) based on parent Application No. 08/691,434 is acceptable and a CPA has been established. An action on the CPA follows.

Priority

Acknowledgment is made of applicant's claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. 119(a)-(d). The certified copy has been filed in parent Application No. 08/160,909, filed on February 18, 1994.

Claim Objections

Claims 78-85 are objected to under 37 CFR 1.75(c), as being of improper dependent form for failing to further limit the subject matter of a previous claim. Applicant is required to cancel the claim(s), or amend the claim(s) to place the claim(s) in proper dependent form, or rewrite the claim(s) in independent form. Claims 78-85 recite method limitations which are directed to the intended use of the claimed apparatus, but fail to recite any structural limitations.

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Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

Claims 17, 20, and 86-91 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

In claims 86-91 it is unclear what is meant by a "magic hand".

Claim 17 presently depends from claim 8 which is drawn to a species of the claimed invention which was non-elected by Applicants in Paper No. 24. In amendment D filed on June 25, 1996, the dependency of claim 17 was changed from claim 16 to claim 8. Presumably, Applicants intend claim 17 to depend from claim 16, therefore, the dependency of claim 17 should be amended.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 16, 18, 19, 24, 25, 56-61, and 74-77 are allowable over the prior art of record. None of the references of record disclose an ion introducing apparatus having a grid electrode and an anode electrode in combination with a laser processing apparatus having a laser wherein a mechanism is provided in a vacuum chamber for transporting the substrate between the

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ion introducing apparatus and the laser processing apparatus without exposing the substrate to air.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to M. Wilczewski whose telephone number is (703) 308-2771.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'M. Wilczewski', with a stylized, cursive script.

M. Wilczewski
Primary Examiner
Tech Center 2800

MW
June 5, 1999